

Active Erasure by the state

“Those who are in the habit of scanning the train and boat passenger lists cannot but have observed in recent months an unusually large influx of persons whose unfamiliar names offer little or no clues as to the country of origin of their owners. Enquiries show that a considerable number of these new arrivals are intending settlers, and it has also been learned that tentative arrangements had been made for the passage of about one hundred other such visitors in the spring. We are informed, however, that the authorities have not approved of the proposals, and with their action public sentiment will be in full accord but for the time being the Island's first object must be to provide for its own people. In that connection we suggest that the immigration laws of the country might be more rigidly enforced .” (*Evening Telegram*, Feb 1926)

Reasons to deny immigration:

Race, Nationality, Ability, Education, Climate, Class, Occupation, Custom/Habit, Way of Life, Presumed Inability to Assimilate

(Some of) the women who came:

Mary Iris King, ca. 1905

Unnamed wife

Ida Zizieltszh, 1925

Unnamed wife

“a woman nurse from Latvia,” 1925

Unnamed wife

Regina Messenger, Chana Ogniewicz,
and Chaja Rosenblum, 1926.

Unnamed wife

Self-Erasure as an Act of Agency

Some people came by ship and just never left, and as such, their arrivals were never recorded. Others evaded census takers, in the process actively erasing themselves and their stories from the historical record.

Possible reasons for hiding:

irregular arrival, fear, racial identity, class, religious belief, gender, legal status, criminalization, and more....

LATVIA

LITHUANIA

GREECE

ITALY

NORWAY

USA

GERMANY

TURKEY

BARBADOS

CHINA

LEBANON

POLAND

AUSTRIA

SYRIA

HUNGARY

UNKNOWN

Immigration Laws in
Newfoundland

- Aliens Act (1906)
- Chinese Immigration Act (1906)
- Disembarking of Paupers Act (amended 1924)

Unnamed wife

Unnamed woman

Rossley

Theatre.

The only High-Class Vaudeville Theatre in our Colony.

To-Night
THE FAMOUS DORA PATTERSON CO.
 will open their splendid Musical, Dancing and Comedy engagements. The Three Rascals are the finest Colored Trio in America.
MISS ARKANDY,
 Violinist and Singer,
 in New Songs and Violin Solos.
 Two houses nightly, 7.15 & 9.15. Admission 10c. & 20c.

Unnamed wife

Unnamed woman

“Thus on the soil of Newfoundland, the tough enduring Saxon and the more lively Celt have met in proportions not far from equal. From this wholesome amalgamation of races have sprung the stalwart men and comely matrons who are today the admiration of those who visit the shores of Newfoundland.”

from: H.M. Mosdell, *Newfoundland: A country of Infinite Possibility and Manifold Attractions to the capitalist, the Settler and the Tourist* (St. John's: Executive Government of Newfoundland, 1920) p.15.

Unnamed wife

Unnamed woman

“sentimentally it would be a grievous thing, as putting an end to the individuality of England's oldest and most loyal overseas possession, merging it with the conglomerate mass of humanity of all nations who constitute the population of Canada. A very large number of Canadians are no doubt intensely loyal, but the bond is getting yearly weaker, partly due to the hybrid of European immigration.”

Sir Ralph Champneys Williams, Governor of Newfoundland, 1913

Unnamed (girl) child

Unnamed wife

Unnamed woman

Unnamed (girl) child

Unnamed wife

Unnamed woman